

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 264470  
ORIGIN NEA-10

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TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 264470

FOLLOWING REPEAT SANA 4148 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO JIDDA  
CAIRO AMMAN LONDON SECDEF COMIDEASTFOR USCINCEUR OCT 23.  
QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 4148

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, YE  
SUBJECT: 19 OCTOBER SPEECH BY YAR PRESIDENT GHASHMI SET  
GUIDELINES FOR HIS GOVERNMENT

BEGIN SUMMARY: ON 19 OCTOBER NEW YAR PRESIDENT  
AHMAD AL-GHASHMI BROKE HIS PUBLIC SILENCE SINCE  
ASSASSINATION OF COLLEAGUE AND PREDECESSOR  
IBRAHIM AL-HAMDI. ASSEMBLING CABINET, COMMAND  
COUNCIL AND REFORM COMMITTEE IN UNUSUAL SESSION  
GHASHMI SET OUT GUIDELINES FOR GOVERNMENT IN YEMEN  
OVER THE COMING MONTHS ALONG THE LINES OF THE  
PREVIOUS HAMDI ADMINISTRATION. END SUMMARY.

1. GHASHMI BEGAN BY DISCUSSING HAMDI. HE SAID  
HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH HAMDI WAS MORE THAN THAT  
OF A PRESIDENT AND ONE WHO IS RULED. HE DWELT  
IN SIMPLE BUT ELOQUENT TERMS ON HIS AFFECTION  
AND LOYALTY TO THE PRESIDENT. HE ACKNOWLEDGED  
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THAT HIS SILENCE AFTER THE DEATH HAD GIVEN RISE  
TO RUMORS AND ADDED TERSELY THAT HIS "MOTIVE WAS  
LOYALTY," THUS REFERRING IN VIELED WAY TO ALLEG-  
EDLY LURID CIRCUMSTANCES OF HAMDI'S HEATH. HE  
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT DEATH OCCURRED IN HOUSE WHICH  
BROTHER ABDALLAH HAD RENTED AND SAID EVENTS WERE  
NOT DISCOVERED UNTIL 7:30 AT NIGHT. BASIC CAUSE

WAS HAMDI'S WILLINGNESS TO GO ABOUT TOWN WITHOUT A GUARD. HE GAVE ALMOST NO OTHER DETAILS, HOWEVER.

2. GHASHMI PLEDGED HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD CONTINUE POLICIES OF PAST WITHOUT ANY CHANGE AND SPECIFICALLY NOTED THE CORRECTION MOVEMENT, WHICH IS OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT BUT RESPONSIBLE FOR HONESTY AS WELL AS SOME KEY SECOND AND THIRD LEVEL APPOINTMENTS. HE ALSO PLEDGED HIS SUPPORT TO COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT, WHICH WAS KEY HAMDI MOVEMENT FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT. HE ENDORSED NEW 5-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND SAID INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PLAN, SCHEDULED FOR 26 NOVEMBER, WOULD OCCUR ON SCHEDULE. HE ENDORSED POLICY OF "OPEN ECONOMY," WHICH ENCOURAGES PRIVATE AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN YEMEN. HE SAID TWO MAJOR GOALS OF GOVERNMENT IN SHORTRUN WOULD BE TO REDUCE FOOD PRICES AND END COURT CONGESTION. THESE WERE MAJOR EMPHASES UNDER HAMDI. GHASHMI SAID DIALOGUE WITH SOUTH YEMEN ("SOUTHERN PART OF HOMELAND" IN FAMILIAR LOCAL ARGOT) WOULD CONTINUE AS IT WAS ONE OF THE GOALS OF THE REVOLUTION OF SEPTEMBER THE 26TH. ALONG WITH ADOPTION OF ABOVE AL-HAMDI POLICIES, HASHMI ALSO SAID THAT HE WANTED ALL PRESENT OFFICIALS TO REMAIN IN THEIR POSITIONS.  
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3. CALLING ON EVERYONE TO REDOUBLE HIS EFFORTS TO FILL THE GAPPING HOLE IN THE POLITICS OF YEMEN, GHASHMI WARNED CLEARLY THAT HE WOULD NOT TOLERATE THOSE WHO TRIED TO EXPLOIT THE SITUATION BY DEMONSTRATIONS OF "WEEPING AND CROCODILE TEARS." HE SAID THERE MUST BE NO SURRENDER TO SORROW. HE CALLED YEMEN A GREAT AND ANCIENT NATION WHICH HAD SURMOUNTED MANY TRAGEDIES. HE CITED THE QURAN EXTENSIVELY TO SHOW THAT DEATH OF A MARTYR STRENGTHENS THE BELIEVERS.

COMMENT: GHASHMI'S SPEECH IS BEING COMMENDED IN SANA. HE HAS SUCCEEDED IN OFFSETTING SOME (BUT BY NO MEANS MOST) OF THE DOUBTS ABOUT HIMSELF AS THE GUILTY PARTY. HE HAS A CHANCE OF GETTING THE GOVERNMENT OFF TO A NEW START USING OLD POLICIES AND PEOPLE. SPEAKING EXTEMPORANEOUSLY, HE CAME ACROSS AS DETERMINED BUT ALSO VERY CLEAR-EYED ABOUT THE DIFFICULTIES TO HIMSELF AND YEMEN IN WHAT HE SAID ABOUT THE FACTS OF HAMDI'S DEATH HE MADE IT

CLEAR THAT THERE WAS MUCH MORE THAT HE WAS NOT  
SAYING, OBVIOUSLY TO PROTECT THE PRESIDENT'S  
REPUTATION. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THIS WILL TAKE  
SOME OF THE HEAT FOR A FULL DISCLOSURE OFF OF HIM.  
THE SPEECH REVEALED, THROUGH ITS THEMES  
AND ARABIC SYNTAX, SOME OF THE UNSOPHISTICATED  
QUALITIES OF GHASHMI. THESE ARE THE QUALITIES  
WHICH HAVE BORNE HIM THOUGH THE INITIAL WEEK OF  
SECURITY TESTS WITH SUCH SURPRISING SUCCESS.  
THEY ARE ALSO SAME QUALITIES WHICH MAY WELL  
SERVE HIM POORLY IN THE POLITICAL TESTS TO COME.  
SCOTES UNQUOTE VANCE

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